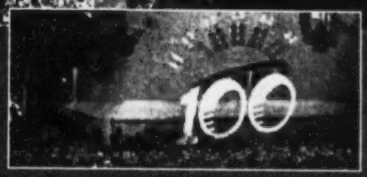
# CITY OF SASKATOON
## 2006 Report to Citizens




## Message to Our Citizens

The sense of growth and prosperity in Saskatoon has never been stronger. We continue to break building permit records. We consistently place in the top three to five municipalities in the country for annual growth in the Gross Domestic Product. Saskatoon's rate of new job production even out-paced Calgary and Edmonton.

Perhaps it is no coincidence that these successes and milestones occurred in 2006 – Saskatoon's 100th anniversary of incorporation as a city. Highlighted by the spectacular "Bridge Party" and fireworks display, the year served as a reminder that we truly live in one of the best cities in Canada.

2006 may have marked the end of an incredible 100 years of progress, but more importantly, heralded the beginning of the next 100 years of promise and potential. This 2006 Report to Citizens highlights our Centennial year's accomplishments and provides a look ahead to the many exciting activities in 2007.

Phil Richards
City Manager
May 2007

City of Saskatoon

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Fireworks photo courtesy Darrell Neakes

# Core Strategy: Economic Development

***Create an environment that encourages economic development.***

**River Landing Phase I**
The riverfront promenade was officially opened in August and construction of the Prairie Wind landmark was completed and unveiled in December. A tax and sale agreement was reached with Persephone Theatre and an official sod turning ceremony was held in September.

**River Landing Phase II**
The master plan for Phase II of the riverfront development was approved by City Council. The design contract has been awarded for the pocket park and substation mitigation.

Construction has begun for the Farmers' Market/Business Support Centre/Market Square. The streetscape designs, including reconfiguration of 19th Street, connections, and parking, was completed in 2006, and construction will begin in 2007.

**Major regional retail centres**
A proposal from Harvard Developments Inc. to expand Preston Crossing was defeated by City Council. New discussions with the University of Saskatchewan began in October. A new DCD3 (Direct Control District) application for Phase III is expected in early 2007.

The servicing agreement with SmartCentres has been negotiated for the Stonegate development.

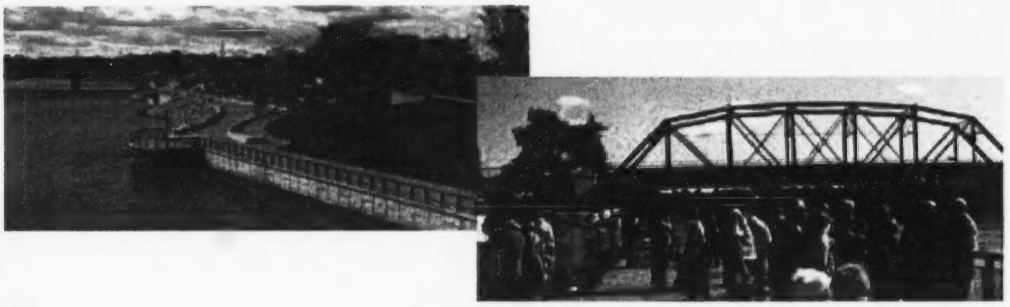
The Blairmore Direct Control District commercial/retail site was sold to SmartCentres. The City is expecting a development application from SmartCentres for specific site plan approval in 2007.

**Industrial land**
Servicing of 19.5 acres of heavy industrial and 5.93 acres of light industrial lands along Wanuskewin Drive was completed in 2006.

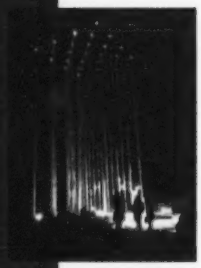
In 2007, direct services will be installed for 91 acres of light industrial and 22 acres of heavy industrial lands west of the C.N.R. tracks. An additional 44 acres of light industrial land will be serviced west of the C.N.R. tracks in 2008.

**Balanced growth and development**

- Servicing of Blairmore Phase I was started, with completion scheduled for 2007.
- Developers will be preparing revisions to the Rosewood neighbourhood concept plan for final application in 2007.
- The preliminary design work is complete on the extension of 25th Street from 1st Avenue to Idylwyld Drive.
- The downtown Transit terminal project is awaiting finalization of the Federal Transit Funding Program, expected to occur early in 2007.



Grand opening of the riverfront promenade at River Landing



The unveiling of the Prairie Wind landmark at River Landing

## Future Initiatives 2007-2009: Economic Development

Construction will commence on the pavilion building, amphitheatre, waterplay feature, and boat dock in Phase I of River Landing. The Saunders Road streetscape and extension of 2nd Avenue from 19th Street to Century Plaza will be completed.

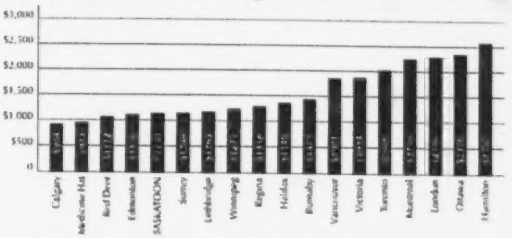
The Phase II pocket park and substation mitigation will be completed, and the Farmers' Market/Business Support Centre/Market Square will open. Work will begin on construction of the Phase II riverfront; streetscaping for 19th Street and Avenues A, B, and C between 19th and 20th Streets; reconfiguration of 19th Street; and construction of surface parking.

# Core Strategy: Fiscal Responsibility

***Manage the collection, stewardship and allocation of public funds in the delivery of municipal services in a fiscally responsible way.***

### *2006 Distribution of Property Taxes*

### *Municipal Property Tax for a Single Detached House in 2006*




Source: City of Edmonton, December 2006. For a 25-30 year-old detached 3-bedroom bungalow with a main floor area of 1,200 square feet, finished full basement and a double car garage, on a 6,000 square foot lot. Municipal property taxes do not include school board taxes.

The City of Saskatoon continues to demonstrate a commitment to fiscal responsibility while meeting the needs of the community.

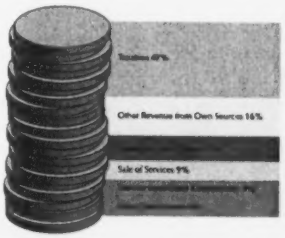
- The City's "pay as you go" philosophy for recurring capital investments helps ensure that future generations are not financially responsible for the benefits received by today's residents.
- The City uses the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as a benchmark for future property tax increases, fees, and charges. The current level of service was maintained during 2006 within the CPI.
- A development charge on lot sales will be used to collect funds for future interchanges throughout Saskatoon.
- A funding plan for a bridge maintenance reserve was presented to City Council for consideration.
- A report on revisions to the storm water levy review will be presented to Council in 2007.
- The City continues to prepare for the 2009 implementation of a modern, market-oriented assessment system.

## Future Initiatives 2007-2009: Fiscal Responsibility

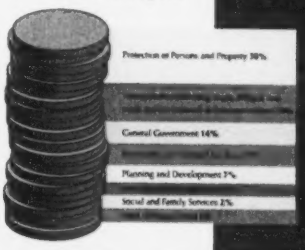
A water and wastewater utility cost of service and rate review will be conducted. The implementation of a new fire hall construction levy is also under consideration.

The City will continue to lobby for predictable and sustainable funding from senior levels of government to rectify the fiscal imbalance.

### *Where the Money to Run the City Comes From*




### *Where Your Municipal Tax Dollars are Spent*




## Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

| | 2005 | 2006 (unaudited) |
|---|---|---|
| **FINANCIAL ASSETS** | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | $ 85,889 | $ 41,827 |
| Taxes Receivable | 10,375 | 8,464 |
| Accounts Receivable and User Charges | 49,978 | 68,853 |
| Loan Receivable | 7,037 | 6,672 |
| Land Inventory for Resale | 24,859 | 14,250 |
| Other Assets | 8,503 | 8,001 |
| Investments | 129,451 | 145,027 |
| Accrued Pension Asset | 84,811 | 59,469 |
| **Total Financial Assets** | 400,903 | 352,563 |
| **FINANCIAL LIABILITIES** | | |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities | 68,118 | 76,117 |
| Deferred Revenue - Development Charges | 16,051 | 13,813 |
| Long-Term Liabilities | 48,125 | 42,719 |
| Employee Benefits Payable | 19,440 | 19,534 |
| **Total Financial Liabilities** | 151,734 | 152,183 |
| **Total Net Financial Assets** | 249,169 | 200,380 |
| **MUNICIPAL POSITION** | | |
| Fund Balances | 311,139 | 259,831 |
| Amounts to be recovered | (42,530) | (39,917) |
| Unfunded Employee Benefits | (19,440) | (19,534) |
| **Total Net Municipal Position** | $ 249,169 | $ 200,380 |

## Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures

For the Year Ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

| | 2005 Actual | 2006 Budget (unaudited) | 2006 Actual (unaudited) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **REVENUES** | | | |
| Taxation | $ 97,795 | $ 100,948 | $ 101,104 |
| Grants in Lieu of Taxes | 21,332 | 22,671 | 22,646 |
| Services Provided to Other Governments | 803 | 792 | 807 |
| Sale of Services | 18,461 | 19,512 | 18,748 |
| Other Revenue from Own Sources | 33,803 | 35,064 | 34,178 |
| Transfers from Other Governments | 13,462 | 17,359 | 18,219 |
| Other Transactions | 17,808 | 17,449 | 17,448 |
| **Total Revenues for the Year** | 203,464 | 213,795 | 213,150 |
| **EXPENDITURES** | | | |
| General Government | 27,995 | 29,876 | 29,939 |
| Protection of Persons and Property | 75,676 | 81,469 | 82,063 |
| Transportation & Communications | 40,543 | 41,740 | 42,686 |
| Environmental Health | 6,265 | 6,517 | 6,536 |
| Social and Family Services | 3,761 | 4,137 | 4,101 |
| Planning and Development | 13,846 | 14,653 | 14,899 |
| Recreation and Cultural Services | 28,178 | 30,552 | 29,795 |
| Debt Servicing Costs | 4,494 | 4,851 | 4,954 |
| **Total Expenditures for the Year** | 200,758 | 213,795 | 214,993 |
| **SURPLUS (DEFICIT)** | $ 2,706 | $ - | $ (1,843) |

## Core Strategy: Service Delivery

***Optimize the effective and efficient delivery of services.***

- The Transit service launched in July has been well received, with the new routes and schedules providing greater convenience for patrons. The new Place Riel Transit Hub at the University of Saskatchewan opened in September.

***Saskatoon Transit provided 9,060,824 rides in 2006 compared with 8,989,505 in 2005.***

- Civic Administration is working with the Downtown, Riversdale, and Broadway Business Improvement Districts to enhance the present free downtown shuttle service.
- The Forest Park operating agreement between the City of Saskatoon, Saskatoon Soccer Centre Inc., and the Saskatoon Public School Division was signed in 2006. The SaskTel Sports Centre opened in January 2006, and Centennial Collegiate and the Terry Fox Track opened in September.
- Construction o ommy Douglas Collegiate, Blairmore Phase I Civic Recreation Centre, and Bethlehem High School began in spring 2006.
- The Blairmore Phase II schematic design and design development stages were completed in 2006. A company has been hired to sell naming rights for the building and specific program spaces within the building.
- Public open houses on Blairmore Phase II development were held, and a display was set up at Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre to provide community updates.

Construction of roads leading to the Blairmore Multi-District Park

### Future Initiatives 2007-2009: Service Delivery

Partnerships with the construction industry will be pursued in order to assist with services such as snow clearing, residential lot servicing, and infrastructure development. Saskatoon Light & Power will continue to explore new opportunities for renewable electrical power generation.

## Core Strategy: Customer Service

***Customers come first – provide responsive and flexible customer service.***

The use of new website technology is helping the City provide enhanced customer service. Online applications have been developed for meter reading, parking ticket payments, and an interactive map showing civic points of interest. Implementation of these applications is targeted for 2007.

The "Saskatoon Recycles" brochure, listing where to take recyclable items, was inserted in April utility bills. To celebrate Waste Reduction Week, the 2nd annual "Caught in the Act" campaign randomly awarded prizes to people "caught in the act" of recycling.

The City will proceed with full implementation of a new landlord/tenant utility service agreement project. Property owners/landlords that sign up for the program will not have to call the City to get services reconnected in their name when tenants move out; the process will be done automatically.

A new brand has been developed for the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo to help position the facility for the future.

***2006 Civic Services Survey Results***

| | |
|---|---|
| **91%** | rated quality of life as good or very good |
| **89%** | were satisfied or very satisfied with civic services |
| **87%** | felt they received good or very good value for their tax dollars |

### Future Initiatives 2007-2009: Customer Service

The City will research and develop a corporate-wide customer service strategy. In 2007, a new brand will be launched to identify all environmental initiatives provided by the City.

# Core Strategy: Environmental Commitment

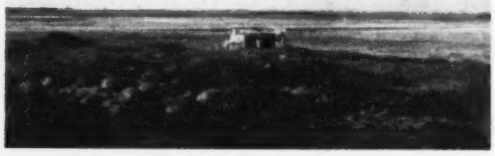
***Exercise responsible, progressive environmental management in the provision of all civic services.***

**Responsible waste management**

- The Waste Management Strategy, renamed the Saskatoon Waste and Recycling Plan, will be presented to City Council in 2007.
- The Pleasant Hill neighbourhood was converted from back lane to front street garbage collection in 2006.
- Nine Household Hazardous Waste Days were held in 2006, and 17 days will be held in 2007. Over 600 residents brought paint, chemicals, and other hazardous materials for safe collection and diversion from the Landfill.

**Composting and recycling**

- A new pilot leaves and grass composting depot located on McOrmond Drive was opened and collected 5,000 bags of leaves and grass.
- The Christmas Tree Recycling Program collected 62 tonnes of trees, which were chipped and composted or used as mulch by City crews.
- A new program allowed pumpkins to be recycled at the leaves and grass composting depots in Saskatoon.



Pumpkins were a new addition at the McOrmond Drive Compost Depot

***Recycling depots provided by the City helped divert 6,571 tonnes of paper/cardboard and 861 tonnes of tin cans/white goods/batteries from the Landfill in 2006.***

- Over 300 subscribers took part in the leaves and grass collection program offered by the City.
- Forty-seven waste and recycling bins were installed as part of a one-year trial project in the three Business Improvement Districts (Downtown, Riversdale, and Broadway).

**Water and wastewater processes**

- Construction continued on a sludge handling facility at the Water Treatment Plant, which is scheduled to open in spring 2007.

Construction of the sludge handling facility at the Water Treatment Plant

- The grit handling facility project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is in the detailed design stage.
- Completion of the design for a new water intake upstream of the landfill has been delayed due to federal and provincial environmental regulatory requirements.

**Environmental management**

- Sound attenuation walls are substantially complete at Idylwyld Drive. The College Drive/Circle Drive sound walls are expected to be finished in summer 2007.
- A consultant has been hired by the City to complete an Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan.
- A gas collection system was constructed at the Landfill. Moisture addition and gas monitoring will continue through 2007.

## Future Initiatives 2007-2009: Environmental Commitment

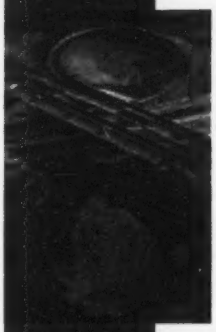
A recycling depot will be opened near Market Mall, and the City will partner with Cosmopolitan Industries and Saskatoon Curbside Recycling to implement a pilot plastics recycling program. A new landfill cell will be opened at the Regional Waste Management Centre.

Other environmental management programs to be implemented include a pilot water conservation program, construction of the downtown Transit terminal to meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, and conversion of the Saskatoon Transit fleet to run on bio-diesel fuel.

## Core Strategy: Infrastructure Management

***Build, maintain, and operate the City's infrastructure in a manner that maximizes current infrastructure, fosters growth, and is fiscally sustainable.***

- The College Drive and Circle Drive overpass opened fully to traffic in October.
- The widening of the Circle Drive Bridge is underway. The westbound lanes opened in November 2006. The eastbound lanes and new pedestrian bridge will open in 2007.
- Lot servicing work continues in Stonebridge, Willowgrove, Hampton Village, and Briarwood. The lot draw for the sale of 66 lots in Briarwood was also completed.
- The Station 20 West project, located the corner of 20th Street and Avenue K, was launched, with support from all three levels of government.
- Negotiations continue on the land development approvals required for the proposed east side water treatment plant and intake facility.
- Saskatoon's oldest bridge, the Traffic Bridge, was repaired and re-opened to vehicles in September. The repairs are expected to extend the life of the 100-year-old bridge by 20 years.



The new College Drive and Circle Drive overpass

### Future Initiatives 2007-2009: Infrastructure Management

In preparation for future growth of the city, work will begin on the final design of the south river crossing and on completion of the Clarence Avenue and Circle Drive overpass. The City will also review the concept plan, design, and servicing for the new Rosewood neighbourhood.

## Core Strategy: Aboriginal Partnerships

***Build on the strengths of our existing relationships with Aboriginal communities.***

The City continues to collaborate with federal, provincial and Aboriginal governments to address urban Aboriginal issues.

- The City supports and funds the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) and Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) for affordable housing initiatives. To date, 86 apartment units have been acquired and renovated.
- In conjunction with the Saskatoon Tribal Council, and with support from the Saskatoon Landlords Association, a "roles and responsibilities of good rentership" program has been developed. The program has been offered at two core area elementary schools, the Saskatoon Food Bank, and White Buffalo Youth Lodge.
- The City worked with SREDA (Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority) to facilitate connections between Aboriginal employment organizations and training opportunities.
- The Pleasant Hill activity house was launched in 2006, with the City of Saskatoon contributing $50,000. A member of the Saskatoon Police Service has volunteered with the fundraising and development of this project, which is intended to be self-sustaining when it becomes fully operational.

MÊ TA WÊ TÁN, the Cree for word for "let's play", is a civic program to increase the level of participation in sports, culture, and recreational activities among Aboriginal children, youth, adults, and families who are not active on a regular basis.

### Future Initiatives 2007-2009: Aboriginal Partnerships

The City of Saskatoon will partner with Whitecap Dakota First Nation to help celebrate the 125th anniversary of the meeting of John Lake and Chief Whitecap. A mentorship placement program with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) Accountancy Studies Program will be developed to support career track qualified Aboriginal students into accounting clerk positions.

## Core Strategy: Multicultural Cooperation

***Recognize the cultural diversity of our community and support growth through immigration.***

The implementation of a Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Policy continues to be a priority for the City.

- A protocol agreement with the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission has been reached to deal with complaints of racism received by the City's Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Office.
- The Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Office continues to liaise with community-based organizations with respect to issues around cultural diversity and race relations.
- An issue paper on employment opportunities and retention of immigrants in Saskatoon will be tabled in 2007. The City continues to work with the federal and provincial governments and the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority (SREDA) to encourage expanded immigration to the province and Saskatoon.

Saskatoon was designated a Cultural Capital of Canada for 2006. This national program recognizes and supports special activities that celebrate the arts and culture, and builds a cultural legacy for the community.

### Future Initiatives 2007-2009: Multicultural Cooperation

The City will complete the integration of cultural diversity into existing employee training and renew cross-cultural training for all corporate employees.

# Core Strategy: Community Development

***Enable active community-based participation in issue and problem identification, and resolution.***

**Addressing the needs of a growing city**

- A new civic process has been implemented and a variety of resources have been developed to facilitate public engagement and consultation.

- The City continues to promote the development of new downtown housing through new measures such as incentives for the conversion of commercial and industrial buildings to residential use; tax abatements; and a rebate of taxes during construction of downtown housing projects.

- Ninety-two Local Area Plan recommendations have been completed. Eighty recommendations are underway, with another 40 recommendations pending.

**Centennial celebrations**

City staff and branches provided assistance to the Citizens' Centennial Committee throughout the year in support of their events recognizing Saskatoon's 100th birthday in 2006. The highlight of the Centennial activities was the Bridge Party in August, where over 40,000 residents gathered along the Broadway Bridge and riverbank to watch a spectacular fireworks display from the Traffic Bridge.

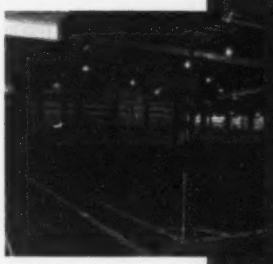
The amazing Centennial Bridge Party on August 26 at Broadway Bridge. Photo courtesy Darrell Noakes

**Integrated facility developments**

Planning continues on an integrated facility in the Willowgrove neighbourhood. Three options have been developed for the site: a stand-alone civic facility; a civic facility integrated with one school; or a civic facility integrated with both schools.

Work continued on the integrated facility in Blairmore. Phase I of the Recreation Civic Centre is under construction. Phase II, including aquatic facilities and a walking track, is in the detailed design stage to be tendered in spring 2007. The multi-district park is in the detailed design stage.

The SaskTel Sports Centre and the Terry Fox Track in Forest Park were opened in September.



The new SaskTel Sports Centre and Terry Fox Track in Forest Park

## Future Initiatives 2007-2009: Community Development

Work will continue to address substandard housing in core neighborhoods. The City will examine opportunities to partner with the provincial Department of Community Resources to pre-certify available rental properties in older neighbourhoods. Discussions with private sector stakeholders are planned to consider infill opportunities for older neighbourhoods and possible incentives for infill projects.

# Core Strategy: Community Safety

***Optimize the safety and security of our community.***

- A new fire engine has been purchased for use at an existing east side station and an additional 14 staff have been hired to facilitate response capabilities.

- Joint training exercises conducted with the Saskatoon Police Service and Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services help provide a coordinated response to reports of clandestine drug labs or potential explosive devices.

- A corporate pandemic preparedness plan is being developed, for approval in 2007.

- A new police chief was hired in July 2006. Recent restructuring of the Police Service will provide an additional 32 patrol officers, beginning in 2007. The city will be divided into three areas, with one Inspector responsible for each area. The Inspector will be the first point of contact with community associations, special interest groups, and concerned residents.

- In June, the Gang Reduction Strategy was tabled. This strategy focuses on prevention, intervention, and suppression of gang activity. The City has taken the lead role in the prevention area, and chairs the prevention sub-committee.

## Future Initiatives 2007-2009: Community Safety Initiatives

A new Transit security strategy is being developed. The City will consider possible locations for a permanent new Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Options include leasing property, which could be sub-leased to both provincial- and federal-level local emergency measures representatives. Research and administrative support will be provided for the Mayor's Committee on Neighbourhood Safety.

A Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services training exercise

# Community Partners

**Mendel Art Gallery**
The past year was a remarkable one of inspirational activity for the Mendel Art Gallery. Presented was an extraordinary, cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural program of creative ideas and diverse forms of visual expression that stretched our understanding and awareness of the world we share.

The Mendel hosted three major exhibitions that originated outside of Saskatchewan: *Maxwell Bates: At the Crossroads of Expressionism*, organized and circulated by the Edmonton Art Gallery; *Just My Imagination*, organized and circulated by MMB Collective and Museum London; and the international touring exhibition, *Ignacio Iturria*, which featured work by one of South America's most prominent artists.

The year also saw the presentation and national tour of *Rick Rivet: Paintings 2000-2005*, which offered special insight into an artistic practice motivated by the artist's experience as a Métis growing up in the Northwest Territories. *Paul Sisetski: Don't Shoot the Messenger* featured a series of arrestingly raw, expressive paintings based on extensive research of the bible and other religious texts. And Susan Shantz's stunning exhibition *canopy* transformed the Mendel Salon into a site of contemplation and inquiry about the complex relationship between nature and culture.

In celebration of the city's centennial year, the Naked City project looked at Saskatoon's "unofficial" histories, its environment, character and people. Presented were four outstanding photographic installations: *Hans Dommasch: My World; The Amazing Childhood of Joni Mitchell; Notorious...and Notable Saskatoon Personalities;* and *Photographic Pleasures: A 70-year Snapshot of the Saskatoon Camera Club.*

The Meewasin Valley Authority set up their canoe and booth at the Living Artfully Celebration of Art and Ecology. Due to popular demand, Living Artfully returns in conjunction with Waterfront Art & Craft Show & Sale on August 18
Photo courtesy John Penner

Highlights of the gallery's innovative community-based programs included the *Living Artfully Studio* on 20th Street in Riversdale; the itinerant and ever-popular *SaskTel Mendel Art Caravan*; the *Adopt-a-Neighbourhood Program* in partnership with the Saskatchewan Environmental Society for residents of Caswell Hill; and last but certainly not least, the highly successful, multi-disciplinary festival of art and environmental consciousness, *Living Artfully: A Celebration of Art and Ecology*. All of these public-spirited programs served to bring art and people together and exemplified the Mendel's vision for creating a caring, inclusive, and sustainable community.

**Saskatoon Public Library**
Saskatoon Public Library continues to serve the community of Saskatoon by offering a diverse array of resources and services, by strengthening ongoing partnerships and building new ones, and by forging ahead with capital priorities.

Progress was realized on the development of a new neighbourhood library branch that is slated to open in 2008 and will serve the Pleasant Hill, Riversdale, King George, and Westmount communities. Public meetings on the new branch will be held in spring 2007.

The Library Board continues to grapple with facility planning, while considering aging infrastructures and limited funds. The development of the central library remains a Board priority for 2007. The Board is working on a proposal that would see expanding the central library onto 23rd Street. This involves a proposal to City Council to close off 23rd Street, between 3rd and 4th Avenues, for the expansion. Meetings to discuss the proposed street closure with the public and major stakeholders are planned for late spring 2007.

Partnerships in literacy, education, and cultural events remain important commitments for the Library. The Library helped celebrate the City's centennial through an extensive lineup of programs and resources. The Library Mascot, P.J. the Pelican, made an official debut at the Centennial kickoff and continued to represent the Library at a number of community parades and events throughout the year.

P.J. the Library Pelican helps patrons check out materials.
Photo courtesy SPL Photo

The Library, though the aid of a provincial government grant, strengthened connections to the Aboriginal community through ongoing Aboriginal Services initiatives. This included participating in the *Anskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival* as a funding and venue partner, and as a sponsor for the Aboriginal Fiction Book of the Year award.

In 2006, 69% of Saskatoon residents were active library users. Saskatoon Public Library continues to rank as one of the top three large urban libraries in terms of circulation statistics (number of items borrowed).

**TCU Place**
TCU Place, Saskatoon's Premier Arts and Convention Centre is a first class facility and a popular hotspot for musical entertainment, theatrical plays, conventions, and banquets for local, national, and international events. The recent expansion that doubled the convention space has put TCU Place on the map and has afforded our sales team the opportunity to solicit new business for higher end events and larger conventions.

In 2006, we were proud to present the Broadway Productions of Aladdin, and numerous world famous musical entertainers such as Jann Arden, Gordon Lightfoot, Amos Garrett, Stompin' Tom Connors, Natalie McMaster, Our Lady Peace, Great Big Sea, The Saskatoon Symphony Master Series, and Canadian Idols Melissa O'Neil and Rex Goudie. Special speakers such as US President Bill Clinton, Lance Armstrong, and Roméo Dallaire, as well as the comedy performances by the Just For Laughs Comedy Tour, Ron James, and Night of Improv with the cast from Whose Line Is It Anyway? showcases the diverse events presented in Sid Buckwold Theatre.

The new expansion at TCU Place

Seasonal and other miscellaneous events and conventions celebrate and highlight those special times of the year with the highly popular and successful Premier Wine Festival, Vanier Cup events, SHE Bridal Spectacular, YWCA Women of Distinction Awards, Silver Spoon Dinner, Small Business Christmas Parties, Noon Festival of Carols, and The Fireside Singers to mention a few.

Since the completion of our expansion, TCU Place has hosted a variety of national and international conventions: Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers, The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, International Association of Women Police Officers, Canadian Body Building Championships, and Canadian Parks and Recreation. In 2007, there are many more national conferences that have chosen TCU Place and we are now taking bookings up to 2014.

**Credit Union Centre**
Credit Union Centre had another strong concert year that placed the facility at number 62 on the Pollstar ranking of the top 100 arenas in the world.

The facility hosted an amazing 22 concerts including Nickelback, George Strait, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and the Dixie Chicks. The Saskatoon Blades had an improved regular season and reached the playoffs, hosting five playoff games in the spring. Annual events like the Saskatoon Sports and Leisure Show, Draggins Car Show, the F.S.I.N. Pow Wow and Sundog Arts and Entertainment Faire, drew great crowds once again.

George Strait in concert at Credit Union Centre

Credit Union Centre's industry leading self-produced events continued to benefit the community through the fall Saskatoon Stampede Rodeo, Professional Bull Riding, A Taste of Saskatchewan, the AutoTrader MotorSport Spectacular, and the nation's largest tribute to veterans, the national award winning Cameco Canada Remembers International Air Show. Two new shows produced in partnership with the Law Enforcement Guardians were added during the year: The Man Show and The Woman's World. These self-produced events enhanced the facility's profitability, attracted over 150,000 patrons from across the region and generated in excess of $4M in economic impact benefits throughout the community.

During 2006, a facility enhancement plan was developed that included the replacement of six removable concourse viewing suites with 21 permanent suites. This project was tendered and awarded late in 2006 with construction to occur over 2007. All 21 suites have been pre-sold. The project will be 100% funded by the facility through funds from its reserves and a productivity loan from the City of Saskatoon.

Financially, 2006 was another strong year as we exceeded budget. After loan payments and interest and meeting our standard equipment reserve requirement, the facility will have excess funds for either revenue stabilization or enhancement reserve purposes. Credit Union Centre continues its history of operating without taxpayer subsidy towards operations.